MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The member *may view* this as one of the steps in pursuance of that.

Cultivation of Tobacco in Travancore.

48. *MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have considered the question of allowing the people to start tobacco cultivation in the State; and

(*b*) the decision, if any, arrived at in the matter?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Draft rules for regulating the cultivation of tobacco in Travancore are under the consideration of Government.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from the Government the extent of the loss of revenue under tobacco in 1110?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I may confess that I don't understand what the honourable member means by loss.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): I mean the amount of decrease in revenue as compared to 1110?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I refer the honourable member to the Administration Report supplied to him.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from Government member whether he is now able to supply the figure?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The information is supplied in the Administration Report for 1110 which I have not got with me now.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from Government the reason for the decrease of a lakh and ninety-three thousand rupees under revenue from tobacco?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Consumption varies from year to year. The purchasing power of the people has declined very much owing to economic depression. Moreover, there are ever so many factors which cause variation in the consumption of tobacco.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from Government whether the fall was due to decrease in consumption as a result of a rise in the price of foreign tobacco?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It was partly due to that cause also.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from the member the reason for the rise in the price of foreign tobacco?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It was reported that there was a failure of crop in Coimbatore, hence the price of tobacco rose higher.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): With regard to the answer to part (*d*) of the question, may I know whether Government have passed the final rules?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The rules have not been finally passed. They are under consideration with Government.

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MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the date on which the draft rules were published in the Gazette?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): July 1935.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the reason why the rules were not finally passed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I submitted the draft rules to Government and the Government referred the rules to their law officers which resulted in some new proposals. The references between the law officers, the Government and the Excise Commissioner take time.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether the Government have ascertained the approximate extent of land suitable for tobacco cultivation?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): We have not ascertained the extent of land. But we know there is land suitable for tobacco cultivation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member whether he has ascertained the causes that have led to the fall in revenue?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I think, I have answered that question.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, the Excise Commissioner has said that it was due to a number of causes. My question is whether the Excise Commissioner has ascertained the causes that has led to the fall in revenue?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, the causes which I have mentioned were found out as a result of enquiry.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): May I know from the member whether the number of smuggling cases detected is on the increase or decrease?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They are on the ncrease. This is due to the economic depression. More people are taking to the smuggling of tobacco from Cochin to Travancore.

Collection of fees in Schools.

49. *MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether fees in Sirkar schools are being collected in British rupees, annas, pies or in Sirkar rupees, chackrams, cash;

(*b*) whether they are aware that, in any aided school in the State, fees are being collected in British rupees, annas, pies; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the negative, will they be pleased to ascertain whether any aided school in the State is collecting school fees in British rupees, annas, pies?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*):

(*a*) Both.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*b*).

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